



Timely Tidbits ...

NCAA Final Four on Final Approach at DTW

Officials at both Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport (YIP) say they are ready to welcome additional passengers and private aircraft as the culmination of March Madness 2009 – the NCAA Men's Final Four basketball tournament – is on final approach.

More than 180 volunteer ambassadors from the Detroit Local Organizing Committee and the Metro Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau will provide directions and information to college basketball fans at DTW through April 7. Traveler's Aid volunteers will also extend their hours.

Welcoming banners, pole wraps, and floor decals decorate both the McNamara and North terminals as arriving passengers make their way from the gates to baggage claim.

"All of our stakeholders – including airlines, concessionaires, ground transportation providers, and the federal agencies – want this to be a successful event," said Lester Robinson, CEO of the Wayne County Airport Authority. "This tournament is a major opportunity to enhance the image of our region. I expect that all airport employees will provide an enthusiastic welcome to our guests from out of town, and show visitors that the Detroit region is friendly and fun."

Planning has been underway since last fall to identify nearly 500 parking positions for charter and private aircraft between the two airports. Space for additional motor coaches has been planned, as well.

"As the Airports' CEO, it's important that I remain impartial," said Robinson, a Michigan State University alumnus. "However, I will say this: *GO SPARTANS!*"

Pizza Kits Net Cash for KHS Band Trip to D.C.

Net proceeds from the sale of Little Caesars Pizza Kits will help the Kennedy High School Band cover expenses for its upcoming trip to Washington, D.C., to march in the National Memorial Day Parade on May 25. Kits start at \$12.

To place your order, contact Charley Johnson (313-304-2173). □

RHS Eagles Fly To Semifinals, But Pershing Clips Wings

For the second year in a row, Detroit Pershing's boys basketball team narrowly escaped Romulus High School in the state's Class A semifinals.

The Doughboys defeated the RHS Eagles, 74-73, at East Lansing's Breslin Center on March 27, before going on to capture the championship with a win over Kalamazoo Central the following day.

Although Romulus got off to a slow start in the first quarter, allowing Pershing to score 12 unanswered points at the beginning of the game, the Eagles had actually taken the lead, 38-37, by the end of the second – thanks, in large part, to 19 points from senior Valdez Green.

Going into the final quarter, Romulus was ahead by five, but their lead had turned into a seven-point deficit by the time the clock was down to 36 seconds. An impressive surge in the final half-minute – including six points by senior Filmore Bouldes, three by junior Derrick Stewart, and a last-second three-pointer by senior Rashard Porter – brought the Eagles to within one at the buzzer.

Although RHS head coach Nate Oats called the loss "frustrating," he tipped his cap to the Pershing team, which featured the Michigan State-bound duo of junior Keith Applling and senior Derrick Nix.

"Our kids played really well," said Oats, who has led the Eagles to three final-four berths – including a finals appearance in 2005 – in his seven years at Romulus. "If we hadn't dug ourselves a hole at the start,



Preparing to board the bus to East Lansing for the State Class A semifinal against Detroit Pershing High School were: (from left) Marcus Williams, James Boler, Jamyles Coleman, Marcus Trent*, Gavar Long*, Eli Robertson, Stephon Edwards*, Rashard Porter*, Derrick Stephens*, Filmore Bouldes*, Valdez Green*, Dwayne Thurmond*, and DeAndray Buckley*. (*Varsity Eagles team members) It was the team's third final-four appearance in the last five years. Photo by R. E. Kadau

we would probably be celebrating a championship right now."

Although the Eagles will lose half of the team to graduation this year, Coach Oats believes that next season will be a successful one.

"We faced a similar loss in 2008, yet

look how well we played this year," he said. "No one expected us to succeed, but we did."

The 2008-2009 Romulus High School Varsity Eagles are:

- Nate Oats – head coach
- Joshua Baker – assistant coach
- Cody Barnes (#23) – senior, 6'0", guard
- Filmore Bouldes (#5) – senior, 5'7", guard
- DeAndray Buckley (#2) – junior, 6'3", forward
- Stephon Edwards (#34) – sophomore, 6'4", forward
- Valdez Green (#15) – senior, 5'10", guard
- Stefan Jenkins (#22) – senior, 6'2", center
- Derek Kinney (#24) – senior, 6'3", forward
- Gavar Long (#33) – senior, 6'1", forward
- Rashard Porter (#0) – senior, 5'11", guard
- Derrick Stephens (#1) – sophomore, 5'6", guard
- Marcus Trent (#4) – junior, 5'11", forward
- Derrick Stewart (#10) – junior, 5'8", guard
- Dwayne Thurmond (#11) – junior, 5'10", guard □

34th District Court's Amnesty Program Forgives Penalties and Late Fees

The 34th District Court in Romulus is offering a chance for anyone who has an open warrant for failing to pay fines, costs, and fees, or who has an outstanding debt in the criminal or traffic divisions of the court, to make things right – at a discount.

Court administrator Al Hindman said Judges Tina Brooks Green, Brian A. Oakley, and David M. Parrott have approved a 30-day amnesty program for the court, which serves the cities of Belleville and Romulus and the townships of Huron, Sumpter, and Van Buren.

Motorists with unpaid parking and traffic tickets will have the opportunity to pay them without penalties or late fees under the temporary amnesty program, which will run through April 30, 2009.

The only condition, according to Hindman, is that respondents must be pre-

pared to pay the fines, costs, and fees associated with their case *in full* before the court will suspend any related penalties and late fees.

"Drivers with overdue traffic tickets are eligible to come in and pay only the original fines," he explained. "It gives people an opportunity to clear up holds they have on their driver's licenses and save money because we waive all the late fees."

All payments must be made in cash or by certified check or credit card. Anyone who has had his/her license suspended must pay the \$45 clearance fee before the license can be reinstated.

The 34th District Court is located at 11131 South Wayne Road. Its hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, call the court at 734-941-4462. □

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity, content, and brevity.

Baumann Letter Disputed

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to Mr. Barry Baumann's letter, which appeared in the March 20, 2009 issue of *the little paper*. Mr. Baumann took my words and twisted them around to suit his viewpoint.

Our police officers are doing a good job, but they patrol the areas they are told to, and they are assigned their job duties. Our economy is terrible, crime is up in our neighborhoods, homes are being broken into, and property is being stolen out of residents' yards. One resident said that, during the middle of the day, someone went into his backyard and stole his log-splitter. Another resident had an expensive John Deere tractor stolen from his yard. They're even stealing people's air-conditioner compressors. Churches aren't even safe – they're breaking into and stealing from churches. What is the problem? Has the administration reduced the number of police officers, or are they occupied on the main roads, writing tickets?

Our Romulus firefighters have always done a great job, too.

If you have been watching our council meetings, Mr. Baumann, you know that I have always supported our firefighters and police officers. Whatever equipment they needed to make their jobs safer or better, I have always voted YES. When our police officers and firefighters start their shift, I want to make sure they go home at the end of it.

I want our firefighter EMTs (emergency medical technicians) to be able to transport our residents to a hospital. Currently, if one of your family members were experiencing a life-threatening emergency such as a stroke, heart attack, or severe injury from an accident, the EMTs would only be able to give that person medical attention. Romulus has a number of ambulances, but must wait for a private ambulance to transport those who need care to a hospital. That is why you sometimes see two ambulances – one of ours, and one that is private – out on a call. A single minute can mean the difference between life and death. That is the reason I want to see our EMTs be able to transport residents to a hospital.

Mr. Baumann stated that I should be known as "Mr. No." When something

doesn't benefit our residents, I always vote NO and explain why I am doing so. I will let the residents decide if I am right or wrong.

I'm running for mayor because I know what's going on in our city, and believe a change is needed.

Harry Crout, Councilman
City of Romulus

Vote for the Best Leader

To the Editor:

After the super-saturation of political news this past presidential election cycle, I've been enjoying the absence of attack ads on the TV and radio. It seems, however, that Romulus is now headed into a contentious mayoral contest based on several letters that recently appeared in *the little paper*.

I would hope that this election will be based on competing views of what is best for our city, and not based on the faults, real or perceived, of the various candidates. We are in the midst of difficult times, and there will be many serious challenges facing the next administration. What is, or should be, most important in the minds of Romulus voters is what direction the next mayor, be it the incumbent or a challenger, will take this city.

I have met City Councilman Harry Crout several times, and believe he is a fine fellow. I don't, at this time, know what kind of mayor he would be.

On the other hand, I have encountered Mayor Alan Lambert on many occasions, and have seen the results of actions he has taken on behalf of the city. While many people were involved in projects the size of the Athletic Center and the Senior Center, it is a fact that they occurred on Mayor Lambert's watch. Even when his efforts were in vain, such as the pleading before the U.S. Congress to allow casino gambling in Romulus, he represented our city in a professional and businesslike manner.

While the recent national mantra has been *change, change, change*, I believe that now is not the time for change in Romulus – unless, of course, a challenger offers a platform that is clearly superior to the current administration's proposals and plans. It is my belief that Romulus is moving in the right direction, and I do not anticipate anyone introducing such a platform. However, whichever candidate indeed offers the best ideas, the best solutions to problems, and the best leadership should become the next mayor of Romulus.

Stuart Kerr
Romulus □

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We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although we will make every attempt to do so.

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Guest Commentaries

McLachlan Supports Increased Dropout Age

By Robert W. McLachlan

Recently, State Representative Doug Geiss (Romulus and Taylor) introduced legislation to increase the school dropout age in Michigan from 16 to 18. His bill, House Bill 4030, has received approval from the Michigan House, and now moves on to the Michigan Senate for consideration.

I support this measure for several reasons. I believe that allowing students to quit school at the age of 16 is just plain wrong. Students are too young to make such a life-altering decision. Gone are the days when someone could quit school and take one of many factory-based jobs that awaited him/her. We need to be structuring our education program to keep students in school beyond typical graduation. A high school diploma was once thought of as the "golden ticket" to competitive employment. Nowadays, we know that our students need some sort of vocational or further academic credentials to be competitive in the job market.

I believe that Michigan parents and taxpayers should begin to explore the possibility of providing two-year degree-type programs as part of the high school careers of our children. Surely, such programs will carry a cost, but I submit that this cost would be less than the burden we currently face due to unemployment and other public assistance provided to those unable to find work. I believe that our local, state, and federal leaders must begin to seriously address the shortcomings that face our schools. We can no longer sit back and

digest lip service instead of promoting real, meaningful reforms. We must invest in education. State and federal resources need to be recommitted to this purpose.

Implementation of a higher dropout age will come with a price, as well. We must decide our priorities as we move forward with this plan. We must provide increased alternatives for those students who are simply not participating in the learning process. We cannot allow those who are not there to learn to disrupt the education of those who are. Romulus has the Community High School, which would be an excellent opportunity for some of those students. We must also look at the actual enforcement of this rule, in that we would most likely need to have school truancy officers (like we have had in the past) to assist in the identification and tracking of those underage students not regularly attending school. In fact, this is a need without the new legislation, as there are children who "fall through the cracks" due to staffing issues now.

I urge Romulus parents and citizens to get involved in this dialogue, and contact Representative Geiss with your comments and concerns. You may e-mail him at DouglasGeiss@house.mi.gov or phone his office, toll-free, at 1-888-737-4347.

We, as a community, need to continue to work together to improve the educational opportunities and experiences of our children. I would love to hear your comments, as well. I invite you to share your thoughts by visiting www.rmclachlan.com.

In-Line Checked Baggage Screening Unveiled

The Wayne County Airport Authority and the Transportation Security Administration are showcasing a new \$72-million in-line explosives detection baggage screening system that's now in operation at the McNamara Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW).

"The success of this project is the result of the excellent partnership between the airport, the air carriers, and TSA," said Federal Security Director Bob Ball. "Adding this latest technology and employing innovative collaborative project management represent our commitment to the traveling public."

According to WCAA CEO Lester Robinson, the new system provides passengers, airlines, and TSA with the speed, convenience, and security of a fully automated, state-of-the-art baggage handling and screening solution. With the in-line system in place, TSA can quickly and thoroughly screen thousands of bags per hour.

"This system is representative of the type of cutting-edge technology that TSA is deploying at world-class airports across the country," said Robinson. "With the new McNamara in-line system fully-operational, all bags departing from Detroit or connecting here via an international flight will be screened quickly and efficiently."

The system is designed to detect and address potential threats. All checked bags are routed by approximately nine miles of conveyor belts through the first-ever large-scale install of 14 GE CTX 9400 Explosive Detection Systems. This automated technology allows TSA to separate harmless checked luggage from suspect bags. Bags that "alarm" are sent to a secondary screening area, where they receive close scrutiny by TSA security officers before being cleared for transport.

The in-line system was designed with future airport growth data to ensure that its capabilities can expand to meet projected increased demand at DTW. □

Town Hall Meeting Unites Anti-Well Forces



Among those who attended Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert's Town Hall meeting on March 30 was Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe (left, at podium). Priebe urged the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to revoke the operating permit it previously issued for a hazardous waste treatment and storage facility on Citrin Drive in Romulus. Photo by R. E. Kadan

By Mayor Alan R. Lambert, City of Romulus

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came out to my Town Hall meeting regarding the hazardous waste deep injection well site in Romulus. Our forum was attended by a packed house on March 30. Thank you also to those who watched at home.

It was great to see the overwhelming support for our cause. Elected officials from all levels of government were on hand to offer support. My good friend, Congressman John Dingell, was unable to attend, but sent his staff and a letter of support to remind us of his staunch support in our efforts to keep the hazardous waste site closed. Copies of his letter are available in my office. U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow also sent their support.

Our own Romulus elected officials were on hand, along with State Senator Ray Basham; State Representatives Douglas Geiss, Ed Clemente, Deb Kennedy, and Andrew Kandreas; Wayne County Commission Chairman Ed Boike; Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe and City Council members; and Huron Township Supervisor Elkie Doom and Township Trustees. Many other locally elected leaders were also in attendance. My thanks to all the elected leaders who were present.

Most importantly, residents of Romulus and representatives from our own grass roots organization, RECAP (Romulus Environmentalists Care About People), were in attendance. It was great to see so many old friends and familiar faces. R. P. Lilly spoke on behalf of RECAP. I would like to thank all RECAP members for your continued dedication and due diligence in opposing the hazardous waste wells.

For nearly two decades, we have worked together to oppose the Class I Hazardous Waste Deep Injection Wells located on Citrin Drive in Romulus. In 2006, the

wells were closed due to serious violations at the site.

Unfortunately, forces are at work to try once again to operate the site. We remain opposed for several reasons, including proximity of the wells to our neighborhoods, interstates, high-traffic areas, and Detroit Metro Airport. Also, there is no real need for this facility. Similar sites are closing due to lack of business.

Our town hall meeting confirmed a very important common thread – we remain united in our efforts to keep the wells closed. We will continue to work together to protect our public health and property.

This time, it appears that state and federal regulatory officials may be more receptive to hearing our voices. We are urging the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to permanently revoke the operating license and keep the wells closed.

In order to strengthen our cause and encourage decision-makers to do the right thing, we need your help. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is conducting a public hearing at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in the auditorium at Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road). Please plan to attend. Let's work together to keep this facility closed.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, remember that a public comment period is currently under way, and your written comments will be accepted between now and May 8, 2009. All comments should be addressed to Ms. Rhonda L. Blayer, Hazardous Waste Section, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and mailed to P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, MI 48909-7741, or e-mailed to blayer@emichigan.gov.

See you at the hearing on April 23. Thank you, Romulus, for your continued support. □

Taylor Honors Friends of the Library



Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe presented a formal proclamation of thanks and recognition to representatives of the Friends of the Taylor Community Library. On hand for the presentation, made during the City Council meeting, were (from left) Friends Betty Salaz, Doris Reeber, and Mary Richardson; Friends president Virginia Christie; Friend Barbara Piskor; and Youth Services Librarian Julie Sebest.

A group of volunteers that has raised thousands of dollars to enhance the Taylor Community Library has been honored by City officials.

Mayor Cameron G. Priebe presented a proclamation to the Friends of the Taylor Community Library during a recent City Council meeting. The Mayor thanked the members who were present for their many contributions, their heartfelt interest in the community, and for making such a difference at the library.

The Friends group was formed in 2003 to provide additional funding to supplement the library's offerings and meet the needs of the dedicated staff. They've been doing that ever since.

From the time of its inception, the Friends of the Taylor Community Library has raised more than \$12,000 through

membership dues and used book sales. The Friends' purchases have included a DVD/VCR television, a laptop computer for use by the library staff, subscriptions to specialty periodicals, and more than 500 spring bulbs and plants – at no expense to the library.

The Friends also fund the quarterly library newsletter and support the library's children's and Christmas programs.

The Friends currently number more than 50 Downriver-based members who pay \$5 per year in dues. New members are always welcome. To inquire, call the library at 734-287-4840.

The Taylor Community Library (12303 Pardee Road) is among the finest libraries in the Downriver area, providing books, CDs, cassettes, DVDs, videos, computer software, Internet access, and other opportunities for a growing circulation. □

"Finally Fore" Offers Great Golf Rates

If you're a golfer and you're ready to hit the links this season, here is some great news: You can golf at two of the area's finest courses at the lowest rates of the year.

AND you can join the Taylor Golf Department and radio station WYCD in helping families who are dealing with a tough economy.

The "Finally Fore" promotion – named with the NCAA Final Four in mind – is set for Monday, April 6, at Lakes of Taylor and Taylor Meadows Golf Courses.

Green fees are only \$15 for 18 holes and a power cart at Lakes of Taylor, and only \$10 for 18 holes and a power cart at Taylor Meadows.

Taylor Golf and WYCD will send

\$5 of each golfer's fee directly to the Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry to help support local families in need.

Taylor Golf Director Rob Pare said the day will include golf, demonstrations, and prizes.

"We're looking forward to welcoming back our golfers," Pare said. "In addition to golf, there will be activities for everyone who just wants to support a great cause, product demos, raffles, tours, and golf clinics."

Tee times are now being taken at 734-287-2100, or you can go online and visit www.TaylorGolf.com.

Lakes of Taylor is located at 25505 Northline Road.

Taylor Meadows is located at 25360 Ecorse Road. □

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Wooden To Run for Romulus City Clerk

Rendell Wooden has announced that she is running for Romulus City Clerk.

The lifelong resident has been employed in the Clerk's Office, in various capacities, for the past 35 years.

"I was hired part-time while I was a co-op student at Romulus High School," said Wooden. "When I graduated in 1974, I became a full-time employee."

Wooden, now the City's election clerk, said she has seen many changes occur since she first began working at City Hall.

"The office has progressed from Shoup voting machines and paper absentee ballots that had to be manually counted - an often tedious and time-consuming job," she said. "We now have the technology of ESS [Electronic Systems Software], which is used throughout Wayne County. The system is much more efficient, reliable, and dependable."

Wooden also believes that her long experience in the Clerk's Office has given her insight into ways she can better services for voters, citizens, and the city's business community.

"My mission for the Clerk's Office is continuous improvement to serve the citizens of our great city by upgrading and keeping abreast of programs such as electronic poll books and paperless council packets, implementing a computerized



Rendell Wooden

record-keeping system for our cemetery, and improving our records department - all while being mindful of the cost to and the convenience of our citizens," she stated.

"I would be honored to serve as your City Clerk, being diligent and working hard for you."

To learn more about Wooden's campaign, watch your mailbox for her literature, which will include information about her upcoming Web site. □

Sky Harbor Sponsors Marshmallow Drop



Youngsters at Sky Harbor apartments in Romulus enjoyed some early spring fun on March 28 when the community's new management team organized a "marshmallow drop" that also featured attractions like face-painting. Community manager Angelina Holbrook (third from right) said the event's success was a result of Mayor Alan R. Lambert working with the team to bring safe, enjoyable activities to area children. Other management team members include (from left) maintenance tech Jason Beesley, assistant community manager Tanisha Morgan, regional vice-president Anna Miller, service manager Scott Krause, maintenance tech Darius Anderson, (seated) leasing consultant Gabriel Kirkpatrick, and (not pictured) groundskeeper Derrick Lamar. Photo by R. E. Kadan

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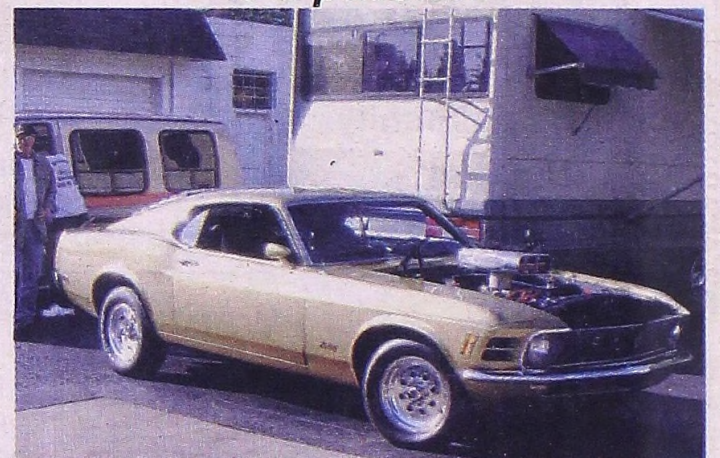
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Vehicle Stabilization Gear Enhances Taylor Fire Department's Capabilities



City of Taylor firefighters deployed a stabilization strut to prevent an overturned vehicle from moving. In the two-person training operation, one placed the strut while the other applied a safety pin.

By Kathleen Trent/City of Taylor

When a traffic accident occurs and a vehicle is overturned, Taylor firefighters say they are ready.

The City of Taylor Fire Department recently purchased new, state-of-the-art vehicle stabilization equipment to respond to accidents and other emergencies, according to Battalion Chief Sam DiCicco.

DiCicco said the new system includes telescoping aluminum support struts and high-pressure air lifting bags designed to raise large vehicles high enough to permit the extraction of accident victims.

The equipment is used most often in traffic accidents when a vehicle is overturned or stuck in an embankment, and is unstable. Responders use the equipment to stabilize the vehicle in order to apply the Jaws of Life, or just to approach it in order to help victims get out.

Last week, all Taylor firefighters participated in a full week of training with the new equipment, designed to stabilize vehicles or trucks weighing up to 42,000 pounds. The air bags are capable of moving up to 144,000 pounds.

DiCicco said the training went well.

"The new stabilization system is another resource, or tool, to aid in our ability to create a safe environment for victims in an emergency," he said.

In the past, Taylor firefighters have used a technique known as "cribbing" to stabilize vehicles — a practice they will continue to use where it is warranted. DiCicco said the new stabilization system will give them additional alternatives, depending on the situation.

"This new equipment will make it safer for the accident victim who needs to be carefully extracted from the vehicle, and also safer for the responder who must approach the vehicle to attend to the patient and remove him/her from the vehicle," he explained.

DiCicco noted that the stabilization system can also be used in other ways, like shoring up a load-bearing wall in an emergency.

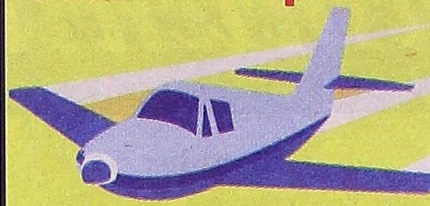
"Due to the nature of its use, we hope we never have to use it, but the technology is there when we need it," he said. □



Taylor firefighters trained as a team to learn an important procedure that could come in handy in a real-life situation. One firefighter cribbed an overturned vehicle as two teams stabilized the car with struts. The procedure would create a safe environment, allowing firefighters to extract someone trapped in a vehicle.

Photos by Dave Gorgon/City of Taylor

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Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 10.

Belleville

Book Signing

Author Beverly Jenkins will be at Main Street Flowers (210 Main Street) from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, to sign copies of her latest book, *Bring on the Blessings* – a work of faith-based women's fiction. Jenkins, known for her historical romance novels highlighting African-American life in the 19th century, has earned numerous awards, including the Golden Pen from the Black Writers Guild.

For information, call 734-697-7400.

"Thunder Rolls" Honors Veterans

Brown Funeral Home and Brown Family Center will sponsor "Thunder Rolls in Belleville" – a Memorial Day celebration that will pay tribute to veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives to protect our nation – on Monday, May 25. The program will begin with a police-escorted motorcycle cavalcade that will run from Wayne County Community College's Western Campus (Haggerty Road just north of I-94) to the Veterans Memorial in Horizon Park (High Street just east of Main Street). Registration and lineup will start at 11 a.m. in the college's front parking lot. All riders are welcome. Proceeds from the \$10-per-person registration fee will be used to help local veterans and their families through the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Afterward, the public is invited to join local veterans for a memorial service to be held at Horizon Park at about 2 p.m.

For information, call 734-697-5090 or e-mail browngriefcenter@yahoo.com.

Huron Township

St. Paul's Church Plans Flea Market

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (18109 Craig Street) will hold a Spring Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 30, through Saturday, May 2. Antiques, collectibles, and furniture will be featured.

For information, call 734-753-9048.

Nursery Registration

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery is accepting enrollment for its 2009–2010 three- and four-year-old classes.

The nonprofit, nondiscriminatory organization – located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street) – focuses on kindergarten readiness and social development, and offers art, music, exercise, and field trips.

For information, call Becki Graybeal at 734-299-3036.

Romulus

Easter Eggs'travaganza

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation will host its annual Easter Eggs'travaganza at Senior Citizens Park (located behind the Romulus Senior Center at 36525 Bibbins Street) on Saturday, April 11, *rain, snow, or shine*. Upon arrival, participants should report to the patio behind the Center.

Egg hunts, which will begin *promptly* at noon, will be divided into four groups:

- 3 years and under,
- 4 to 5 years,
- 6 to 7 years, and
- 8 to 10 years.

Children must bring their own basket/bag for the eggs they collect. Some eggs will contain tickets, redeemable for special prizes.

No preregistration is required for this free event. Photos with the Easter Bunny will be available for \$2 each.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books for future discussions include:

- *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson (April 13), and
- *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver (May 11).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Puppet Show Celebrates Library Week

Families are invited to attend a free Health Wise puppet show at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) on Tuesday, April 14, at 6 p.m.

No preregistration is required.

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Mom-2-Mom Sale

Shop for gently used children's items at a Mom-2-Mom Sale being hosted by the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road) on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aisles will be wide enough for strollers, so bring your little ones with you!

Tables (10'x8' space with table) are available for \$25. Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

For information, call the Recreation Department: 734-941-8665.

Horseshoe Club Seeks Players

The Romulus Horseshoe Club is looking for players on Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. at Elmer Johnson Park (Ozga Road south of Wick Road) to pitch in a 12-week league starting in May.

For information, contact Mark at 313-562-3272 or 313-682-3600.

Men's Sunday Softball League Forming

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation is currently forming a Men's Sunday Softball USSSA "D" League. Up to eight teams will be accepted for games to be played at Elmer Johnson Park (Ozga Road south of Wick Road). Both residents and nonresidents are welcome to participate.

A cost of \$500 per team is due by Monday, May 4.

For information, call the Recreation Office at 734-941-8665.

Cox To Speak at Chamber's Business Luncheon

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's next business luncheon will be held at the Crowne Plaza (8000 Merriman Road) on Tuesday, May 19, at 12 p.m.

Guest Speaker for the event will be State Attorney General Mike Cox, who will discuss how the AG's Office impacts business in Michigan, and will also administer the "Oath of Office" to the Chamber's newly elected officers and directors.

Tickets are \$15 for Chamber members, \$18 for nonmembers. Register by Friday, May 15. Seating is limited, so early registration is recommended.

For information, call 734-893-0694 or e-mail info@romuluschamber.com.

Golf Outing Benefits Boys & Girls Clubs

A scramble-format golf tournament to benefit the Romulus and Belleville Boys & Girls Clubs will be held at Inkster Valley Golf Course (2150 Middlebelt Road) on Thursday, May 21, starting at 9 a.m.

A cost of \$100 per individual covers 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, dinner, and prize opportunities. A \$500 foursome rate includes all of the above plus a hole sponsor sign! Hole sponsorships are \$125.

Register by Friday, May 7.

For information, call 734-941-5839 or visit jcove@bgcsm.org.

Class of 1979 Plans 30-Year Reunion

Romulus High School's Class of 1979 is planning a 30-year reunion to be held sometime in August.

For information about the event – which will also be open to the classes of 1977, '78, '80, and '81 – call either Duane (248-459-3399) or Lisa (734-624-0901). Note: Information about "lost" classmates would be appreciated.

Taylor

Willy Wonka Junior

The Taylor Youth Theater and the City of Taylor Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation will present *Willy Wonka Junior*, based on the Roald Dahl children's classic, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Showtimes will be 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 5. All performances will be given at the Sheridan Community Center (12111 Pardee Road).

Tickets (\$8; \$6 for senior citizens and students) are available at the Taylor Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road). Tickets also will be available at the Community Center beginning one hour before showtime.

For information, call 734-374-3906 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Skating Competition Benefits Adults for Autism

A competition for adult figure skaters will raise funds for the Autism Society of Michigan. Adults for Autism is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, at the Taylor Sportsplex (13333 Telegraph Road, Taylor). About 60 skaters will compete for prizes.

Information on autism will be available in the lobby.

Organizers will raffle several items, including items autographed by skaters Emily Hughes, John Baldwin, and others.

Admission is free.

For information, call 734-374-8900, ext. 4210.

Taylor Teen Bands Do "Battle"

Mayor Cameron G. Priebe's Youth Advisory Council is sponsoring its annual "Battle of the Bands" program at the Heritage Park Activity Building (12111 Pardee Road) on Friday, April 24, from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Admission for spectators is \$5.

Spaghetti Dinners Aid Junior World Series in Taylor

Weekly all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinners will raise money for the Junior League World Series of baseball. The Perfect Pitcher Sports Club (12900 Beech Daly, just north of Northline Road) is holding the \$5 dinners on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The "big brother" of the Little League World Series, the JLWS is an annual event that was founded in Taylor in 1981. This year's series will be played at Heritage Park August 16–22.

For information, call 734-947-9707.

Elsewhere

St. Mary Accepting Registrations

St. Mary Catholic School, located at 34516 Michigan Avenue in Wayne, is now accepting registrations for the 2009–2010 school year for grades K–8.

For information, call 734-721-1240.

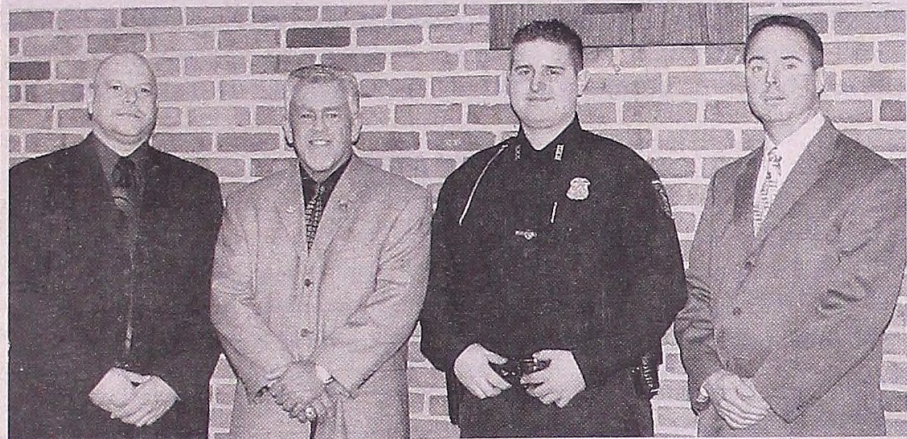
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New Romulus Police Officer Sworn In



Romulus Police Officer Joseph Talanges (second from right) was sworn in during a brief ceremony held at Romulus City Hall on April 1. Among those on hand to congratulate him were Mayor Alan R. Lambert (second from left), Deputy Chief Michael St. Andre (left), and acting Deputy Chief John Leacher. Photo by R. E. Kadam

Scholarship Applications Now Available

The City of Taylor's management association will again present annual scholarships to two deserving high school graduates from Taylor.

Applications are now available in the counselors' offices at Kennedy and Truman high schools, as well as in Mayor Cameron G. Priebe's office at Taylor City Hall (23555 Goddard Road).

Applicants must:

- be a graduating senior,
- be a resident of Taylor,
- have a good grade point average,
- take part in extracurricular activities,
- have a public-service career goal,
- have a letter of reference and essay, and
- be prepared for a personal interview.

The opportunity is limited to the first 50 applicants. Children of city

elected officials are not eligible. Scholarships will be awarded at the July 16 meeting of the Taylor City Council. Scholarship will be distributed upon proof of college enrollment.

All parts of the application must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2009, at Taylor City Hall, and made to the attention of Megan Etue.

In 2003, members of the Taylor Governmental Management and Administrative Employees Association (TGM & AEA) voted to demonstrate their community pride by using their own funds to form the scholarship program. Two \$750 scholarships are awarded annually.

TGM & AEA is composed of city department heads, directors, managers, and administrative employees. □

Romulus Barbershop Celebrates 40 Years



Local barber Dave Rakotz (third from left) has owned and operated his Romulus shop for 40 years. Helping him keep his customers looking their best are his wife Judie (right) and cosmetologists (from left) Angela Rice, Debbie Thomas, Stephanie Barrett, Danielle Gibson, Marcia Dixon, Debbie Gross, and (not pictured) Marcy Theobald. In many ways, the group is one big happy family, as evidenced by this photo, which was taken at Ms. Barrett's wedding.

February 2009 marked the 40th anniversary of Dave's Barber Shop, a Romulus business that has grown from a one-man operation to a full-service salon.

Rakotz has deep roots in the community, having grown up in Romulus and earned his diploma from Romulus High School in 1962. During the next seven years, he graduated from Greene's Barber College in Detroit (1964) and worked first at Glenwood Barbers in Wayne, then Michael's in Trenton, before deciding to open his own business back in Romulus, where he still lived.

It was a busy time for Rakotz, who ran his new shop on Huron River Drive by day, cut hair at the barbershop in Detroit Metropolitan Airport at night, and served with the Michigan Air National Guard one weekend each month. After three months, his shop was doing well enough that he could leave his second job and concentrate on his own business.

In 1975, the site of the shop's current location (37148 Goddard) became available through the previous owner's retirement. Rakotz remodeled the former insurance agency himself while still working at his original shop. After four months of renovations, he had a one-room barbershop, with a restroom and a small back room, that had a comfortable western atmosphere.

Business was booming, and soon became more than one person could handle. Rakotz's wife, Judie, went to cosmetology school and, after graduating in 1977, went to work beside her husband.

With their clientele continuing to grow, the couple decided to add on to their facilities. In 1989, the little two-chair shop became a six-chair salon with nine barber-beauticians working the stations. The change allowed Rakotz to expand his repertoire of services, which includes cutting, styling, perming, coloring, highlighting, lowlighting, and paneling. The salon also offers a variety of professional retail products for sale.

Through four decades in business, Rakotz has always given back to the community, giving free first haircuts with certificates and cutting hair for his customers that became homebound, were hospitalized, or moved to a convalescent home. He has supported Romulus schools as well as local police, fire, and community organizations with advertising and contributions for miscellaneous fund-raisers. He has also sponsored a Romulus Little League baseball team for 34 years. As a parish member of Saint Aloysius Catholic Church since the early 1950s, he has a long history of involvement there, and supports the weekly church bulletin with an ad.

Rakotz and his wife have two children. Daughter Leslie, a school teacher and mother of three children, resides in Ann Arbor with her husband Felix. Ronald, their son, is an electrical engineer with the Ford Motor Company. He and his wife Nichole live in Commerce Township and have two children.

* * *

Dave's Barber Shop is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 734-941-0123. □

Boys & Girls Club Recognizes Volunteers



(From left) Jill Covell, area director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan's Belleville and Romulus communities, presented Yvette Babish and her daughter, Lauryn Babish, with an award recognizing them for their volunteer service at the Boys & Girls Club's Merriman Elementary School site in Romulus. The presentation was made at the site's annual Awards Dinner.

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Sassy Seniors

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Romulus

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Craft Show

Romulus seniors who would like to take part in the Center's upcoming craft show – set for Thursday, April 23, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. – may purchase table space for just \$5.

Space is limited; sign up early!

Easter Dinner

The Romulus Senior Center's annual Easter Dinner – set for Thursday, April 16, at 12 p.m. – will feature a menu of ham with cherries and pineapple, mashed potatoes, a steamed vegetable, dessert, coffee, and punch.

Cost is \$3.50. Advance registration is required.

Pool Tournament

Put your pool-shark reputation to the test on Thursday, April 9, when a tournament for local senior citizens will begin at 12 p.m. Advance registration is required.

Need some practice? The Center's game room is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Wii Bowling Challenge!

Show off your gaming skills when the Romulus Senior Center hosts a Wii Bowling Challenge against Mayor Alan Lambert on Tuesday, April 14, at 1 p.m. The winner will receive a prize!

Advance sign-up is required.

Latin Dance Class

The Center will offer a class in Latin-style dancing at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7.

Advance registration is required.

Other Classes

Call for more information about these classes, which require advance sign-up.

- jewelry-making (Wednesday, April 15, at 5 p.m.; \$10 cost for materials),
- painting (Friday, April 17, at 1 p.m.),
- scrapbooking/card-making (Tuesday, April 21, at 5 p.m.; \$10 cost for materials), and
- crochet (Wednesday, April 22, at 11 a.m.).

Lunch Out

The Romulus Senior Center's next "lunch out" destination will be the Country Buffet (Thursday, April 9, 11 a.m.).

Transportation is free. Advance registration is required.

Taylor

6750 Troy • 313-291-7740

Volunteers Wanted!

The Ford Senior Center is looking for volunteers interested in helping with various garden chores and/or drawing up a "blueprint" of the Center's garden areas.

Call for more information on how you can put your green thumb to good use.

"Friends of the Ford Senior Center" Now Forming

The newly founded Friends of the Ford Senior Center – a group dedicated to promoting information about, and participation in, Ford Senior Center programs – is conducting its first membership drive. The group is open to anyone of any age, resident or nonresident. Dues are \$1 per month, paid yearly.

For more information, speak to Senior Center director Marsha Dotson.

Garden Party

Celebrate the arrival of spring at the Senior Center's Garden Party, set for Monday, April 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will feature catering by Veronica's and music by Mike Wolverton.

Tickets (\$15 each; available in advance only) are now on sale. No tickets will be sold after Monday, April 13.

"An Afternoon at the Movies"

Enjoy a gourmet buffet and dessert, then check out the hot new Clive Owen/Julia Roberts thriller titled *Duplicity* (with free popcorn and beverages), on Tuesday, April 21. Bus departs from the Center at 10:15 a.m. and returns at about 4 p.m.

A cost of \$18.75 includes transportation, lunch, and admission. Advance registration is required.

Thoroughly Modern Millie

The Senior Center is planning a trip to Davidson Middle School to see the Southgate Community Players' production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. The bus will depart at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1, and return at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Cost is \$15 plus dinner at Culver's. Advance registration is required.

Motor City Casino

If you love to gamble, but hate the hassles of traffic and parking, this trip to Motor City Casino is for you! A chartered bus will depart from the Ford Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

A cost of just \$10 includes transportation plus a \$15 voucher good for food or money. Space is limited; sign up early!

Breakfast Courtesy of American House!

American House senior-citizen apartments in Taylor will sponsor a complimentary continental breakfast at the Ford Senior Center on Friday, April 17, at 8:30 a.m.

Register by Tuesday, April 14, if you plan to attend. ☐

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038

Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Time _____

Weight _____ Length _____

Birthplace _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038

Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Bride's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Bridesmaids _____

Groomsmen _____

Date of Engagement _____

Date of Wedding _____

Place _____

City _____ State _____

Reception _____

City _____ State _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

Wayne County's Nutrition Program feeds thousands of senior citizens (age 60+) via the Meals on Wheels program for the homebound and the congregate meals program offered each weekday at sites like the Romulus Senior Center.

DON'T GO HUNGRY.

Meals are **FREE** for those who qualify. For more information, call:

1-800-851-1454

Obituaries

Catherine E. Freeman

Catherine E. Freeman of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at the age of 51.

The daughter of the late James and Constance Downing was born in Pontiac, Michigan, on Saturday, June 8, 1957.

Catherine was a beloved teacher at Robert J. West Middle School (Taylor, MI). An avid reader, she also enjoyed bowling and golfing. Most precious to her were her family and friends.

Surviving Catherine are her husband, Brant L. Freeman; 2 daughters, Sarah Constance Freeman and Clare Alberta Freeman; a sister, Jane (David) Berry (Greenhills, OH); and 3 brothers, John B. (Melody) Downing (Pigeon, MI), Patrick M. Downing (Pigeon), and James M. (Sharon) Downing (Owosso, MI).

She is also survived by her dear friend, Candace (Mark) Lewkowicz; her father-in-

law, Tom Freeman; a sister-in-law, Lesa Eden; 3 brothers-in-law, Jeffrey (Susan) Freeman, Dean (Lori) Freeman, and Dan (Dusty) Freeman; and many beloved uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Among those who preceded her in passing were her parents and her mother-in-law, Alberta Freeman.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, April 1, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus), with Father Festus Ejimadu officiating.

Interment was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Memorial tributes to Robert J. West Middle School or the Catherine E. Freeman Special Education Memorial Scholarship Fund would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Stella Griffiths

Stella Griffiths – a resident of Romulus, Michigan, from 1979 to 1996 – passed away on Friday, February 27, 2009, at the age of 83.

The fifth of the late John and Rose Krawczyk's seven children was born in Rices Landing, Pennsylvania, on Monday, August 10, 1925.

A real coal miner's daughter, Stella came to Michigan in 1942 to work in the war plants. She was an avid flower gardener, and enjoyed playing bingo at the Romulus Senior Center until her health began to fade.

Surviving Stella are her husband, Arthur D. Griffiths, Jr. (Westland, MI); 2 children, Sandra and Charlie; 5 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren.

A small family graveside service was held on Monday, March 2, at Cadillac Memorial Gardens-East (Clinton Township, MI). Since Stella believed that cut flowers were a waste, the family asked her friends not to send any for her memorial,



Stella Griffiths

but to remember her by planting a few extra flowers in their own gardens this spring.

The Stork Arrived!

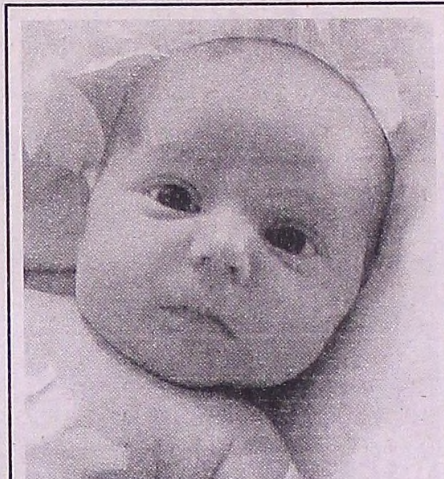
Elle Caroline Fernley

Kevin and Jaime Fernley of Brighton, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful new daughter, Elle Caroline Fernley.

Elle was born in the University of Michigan Medical Center (Ann Arbor) at 9:38 a.m. on Monday, February 23, 2009. She weighed 7 lbs., 6.5 oz., and measured 20 in.

Especially excited about the new arrival was her three-year-old sister, Grace.

Also giving Elle a warm welcome into the family were her paternal grandparents, Ralph and Diane Fernley (Livonia, MI), and her maternal grandparents, Rick Luczak (Romulus, MI) and Jason and Bonnie Frontiera (Hamburg, MI).



Elle Caroline Fernley

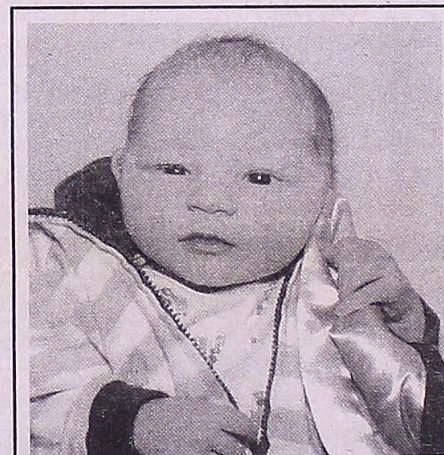
Jeffery Lloyd Green

Proudly announcing the birth of their first son, Jeffery Lloyd Green, are Daniel Hopson and Shelby Green of Romulus, Michigan.

Jeffery was born in St. Mary Mercy Hospital (Livonia, MI) at 8:51 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2009, weighing in at 6 lbs., 11 oz., and measuring 20 in.

Among those giving the new arrival a warm welcome into the family were his paternal grandparents, Jeff and Vicki Hopson (Allen Park, MI), and his maternal grandparents, Paul and Sandra Green (Romulus).

Jeffery is also the paternal grandson of the late Sherry Hopson. □



Jeffery Lloyd Green

Register Now for Free Permit for Citywide Yard Sale

Romulus residents are invited to take part in the annual Citywide Yard Sale, set for Thursday, May 14, through Sunday, May 17. (If two or more of the sale dates are "rained out," the event will be rescheduled for May 28-31.)

To register for a free sale permit – and have your address included in free

newspaper advertising for the event – stop in at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road) by Wednesday, April 22.

Residents registering after the deadline will receive a free permit, but may not be included in any advertisements.

For info, call 734-941-8665.



~ Crane ~

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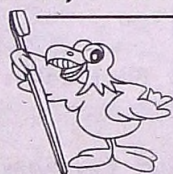
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